

SENATE BILL No. 469

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 34-6-2; IC 34-31-8.

Synopsis: Limited liability for certain asbestos claims. Limits civil liability arising from asbestos claims for certain corporations.

Effective: July 1, 2009.

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January 14, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections, Criminal, and Civil Matters.

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First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 469

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning civil procedure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 34-6-2-11.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 3 1, 2009]: **Sec. 11.5. "Asbestos claim", for purposes of IC 34-31-8,**
- 4 **has the meaning set forth in IC 34-31-8-1.**
- 5 SECTION 2. IC 34-6-2-29.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 6 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 7 1, 2009]: **Sec. 29.5 "Corporation", for purposes of IC 34-31-8, has**
- 8 **the meaning set forth in IC 34-31-8-2.**
- 9 SECTION 3. IC 34-6-2-69.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 10 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 11 1, 2009]: **Sec. 69.5. "Innocent successor corporation", for purposes**
- 12 **of IC 34-31-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 34-31-8-3.**
- 13 SECTION 4. IC 34-6-2-142.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
- 14 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 15 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009]: **Sec. 142.5. "Successor asbestos related**
- 16 **liability", for purposes of IC 34-31-8, has the meaning set forth in**
- 17 **IC 34-31-8-4.**



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SECTION 5. IC 34-6-2-143.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009]: **Sec. 143.8. "Transferor corporation", for purposes of IC 34-31-8, has the meaning set forth in IC 34-31-8-5.**

SECTION 6. IC 34-31-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009]:

Chapter 8. Limited Liability Concerning Asbestos Related Claims

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "asbestos claim" means any claim for damages, losses, indemnification, contribution, or other relief concerning asbestos, including:

(1) a claim relating to the health effects of exposure to asbestos, including:

(A) personal injury;

(B) death;

(C) mental injury;

(D) emotional injury;

(E) risk of disease or other injury; or

(F) the costs of medical monitoring or surveillance;

(2) a claim made by or on behalf of any person exposed to asbestos, including a claim of a:

(A) representative;

(B) spouse;

(C) parent;

(D) child; or

(E) other relative;

of a person exposed to asbestos; and

(3) a claim for damage or loss caused by the:

(A) installation;

(B) presence; or

(C) removal of asbestos.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "corporation" means a corporation for profit, including a domestic corporation organized under Indiana law or a foreign corporation organized under the law of a jurisdiction other than Indiana.

Sec. 3. (a) As used in this chapter, "innocent successor corporation" means a corporation that:

(1) assumes;

(2) incurs;

(3) has assumed; or

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(4) has incurred;
 successor asbestos related liability and became a successor corporation due to a merger or consolidation with another corporation before January 1, 1972.

(b) The term includes a corporation into which an innocent successor corporation is at any time subsequently merged or consolidated.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "successor asbestos related liability" means any liability that is related to an asbestos claim that was assumed or incurred by a corporation as a result of:

- (1) a merger or consolidation with another corporation;
- (2) the plan of merger or consolidation related to the merger or consolidation; or
- (3) the exercise of control or the ownership of stock of the corporation before the merger or consolidation.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "transferor corporation" means a corporation from which a successor asbestos related liability was assumed or incurred.

Sec. 6. This chapter shall be construed liberally regarding innocent successor corporations.

Sec. 7. This chapter applies to a civil action asserting an asbestos claim that is filed against an innocent successor corporation:

- (1) after June 30, 2009; or
- (2) before July 1, 2009, if trial has not commenced as of July 1, 2009.

Sec. 8. (a) Subject to subsections (c) and (d) and sections 10 and 12 of this chapter, the cumulative successor asbestos related liabilities of an innocent successor corporation are limited to the fair market value of the total gross assets of the transferor corporation, determined as of the time of the merger or consolidation through which the innocent successor corporation assumed or incurred successor asbestos related liability.

(b) An innocent successor corporation is not responsible for successor asbestos related liability in excess of the limitation set forth in subsection (a).

(c) For purposes of this section, if a transferor corporation assumed or incurred successor asbestos related liability in connection with a merger or consolidation with a prior transferor corporation, the fair market value of the total gross assets of the prior transferor corporation determined as of the time of the earlier merger or consolidation shall be substituted for the limitation set forth in subsection (a) to determine the limitation of

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1 liability of the innocent successor corporation.

2 (d) Cumulative successor asbestos related liabilities include
3 liabilities that exist after the merger or consolidation of the
4 innocent successor corporation and the transferor corporation and
5 that are paid or discharged by or on behalf of the:

6 (1) innocent successor corporation; or

7 (2) transferor corporation;

8 as part of a settlement or judgment in Indiana or another
9 jurisdiction.

10 Sec. 9. The limitations set forth in section 8 of this chapter apply
11 to the successor asbestos related liability of an innocent successor
12 corporation and do not apply to:

13 (1) worker's compensation benefits paid by or on behalf of an
14 employer to an employee under IC 22-3 or a comparable
15 worker's compensation law in another jurisdiction;

16 (2) a claim against a corporation that is not a successor
17 asbestos related liability;

18 (3) any obligation under the federal National Labor Relations
19 Act (29 U.S.C. 151, et. seq.); or

20 (4) a collective bargaining agreement.

21 Sec. 10. (a) An innocent successor corporation may establish the
22 fair market value of the total gross assets of a transferor
23 corporation to determine limitations under section 8 of this chapter
24 by any reasonable method, including:

25 (1) by reference to the going concern value of the assets;

26 (2) by reference to the purchase price attributable to or paid
27 for assets in an arms length transaction; or

28 (3) in the absence of other readily available information from
29 which the fair market value can be determined, by reference
30 to the value of the assets recorded on a balance sheet.

31 Sec. 11. (a) If the total gross assets of a transferor corporation
32 include liability insurance issued to the transferor corporation, this
33 chapter does not affect the applicability, terms, conditions, or
34 limits of the liability insurance.

35 (b) This chapter does not affect the rights and obligations of an
36 insurer, transferor, or successor under an insurance contract or
37 any related agreements, including:

38 (1) preenactment settlements resolving coverage related
39 disputes; or

40 (2) contracts regarding the rights of an insurer to seek
41 payment for applicable deductibles, retrospective premiums,
42 self insured periods, or periods as to which insurance is

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1 uncollectible or unavailable.

2 (c) A settlement of a dispute concerning liability insurance
3 coverage entered into by a:

4 (1) transferor corporation; or

5 (2) successor corporation;

6 with the insurers of a transferor corporation before July 1, 2009,
7 is determinative of the total coverage of liability insurance to be
8 included in the calculation of a transferor corporation's total gross
9 assets under this chapter.

10 Sec. 12. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d),
11 the sum determined as the fair market value of the total gross
12 assets of a transferor corporation as of the time of a merger or
13 consolidation for purposes of determining the limit on the
14 cumulative successor asbestos related liabilities of an innocent
15 successor corporation under this chapter shall be adjusted
16 annually at a rate equal to the sum of the following:

17 (1) The prime rate listed in the first edition of the Wall Street
18 Journal published for each calendar year since the merger or
19 consolidation. If the prime rate is not published in the first
20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, then a reasonable
21 determination of the prime rate on the first day of the year
22 may be used.

23 (2) One percent (1%).

24 (b) The rate described in subsection (a) may not be
25 compounded.

26 (c) The adjustment of the fair market value of the total gross
27 assets of the transferor corporation as of the time of the merger or
28 consolidation shall continue as described in subsection (a) until the
29 date as of which the adjusted value is first exceeded by the
30 cumulative amounts of successor asbestos related liabilities paid or
31 committed to be paid by or on behalf of:

32 (1) the innocent successor corporation;

33 (2) any predecessor corporation; and

34 (3) the transferor corporation;

35 after the time of the merger or consolidation.

36 (d) No adjustment of the fair market value of total gross assets
37 of a transferor corporation under this section shall be applied to
38 any liability insurance.

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